



Branching Out

July 17, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

TREE meetings:

September 17 Meeting: Northumberland County Library in Heathsville from 11 to 2pm Guest speaker will be Dr. Jeff Kirwin, author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*.

Local events:

WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

(4-H leaders, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, scout leaders, church environmental stewardship coordinators, community associations, etc.)

Conservation Tools: Watersheds, Rain Barrels and Living Shorelines

Wednesday, July 29, 2009 1-4 p.m.

The workshop is for teachers and other educators with environmental interests (4-H leaders, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, scout leaders, church environmental stewardship coordinators, community associations and others who in some capacity may work to promote conservation.) It will address these areas: how to plan a "Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience"; Virginia's SOLs as they relate to water, watersheds and groundwater; Living Shorelines – an environmentally-friendly alternative to erosion control; water conservation tips; how to make a Rain Barrel from a recycled pickle barrel; and how to plan a rain barrel workshop at a school or in a community.

Teachers may be able to use the workshop for continuing education credits.

This workshop's goal is to engage all types of environmental educators and schools as integral partners to promote individual stewardship of local streams as well as the Chesapeake Bay; to assist individuals and schools to provide a meaningful Bay or stream outdoor experiences for every child in the watershed before graduation from high school; and to explore opportunities for students to directly participate in local restoration and protection projects, and to support stewardship efforts in schools and on school property.

Rain Barrels can be attached to gutter down spouts to capture roof runoff. The water stored in the rain barrel can be used to water gardens or lawn. Rain barrels can also help control storm water runoff, which causes erosion and degrades our streams. During the workshop, a heavy plastic

pickle barrel will be converted into a functional rain barrel. All tools & supplies are provided and each participant will be able to take the rain barrel home.

*This Workshop is sponsored by: **Longwood University's Hull Springs Farm, Clean Virginia Waterways** (affiliated with Longwood University); **VA Resource Use Education Council – Stewardship Grant; The Virginia Environmental Endowment** and the **Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund** --thanks to the sales of Chesapeake Bay license plates.*

When: Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 1-4 p.m.

Where: Longwood University's Hull Springs Farm
645 Hull Springs Farm Road, Montross, VA 22520

Cost: \$47 includes a finished rain barrel to take home and a copy of a manual entitled: *Virginia's Water Resources: A tool for teachers and educators*)

Register not later than July 24 (the number of participants is limited to 25) by calling Hull Springs Farm (804) 472-2621 or emailing hullspringsfarm@longwood.edu or visiting www.longwood.edu/hullspringsfarm for a registration form found on the home page.

Girl Scout Leader Kick-Offs

The Girl Scouts will be hosting a state-wide and local kick-off for leaders. Area EE providers are invited to display at these events.

Mini-Girl Scout Leader Kick Off on the Northern Neck:

GS Leader Kick Off in Warsaw on Thursday, August 6 from 6-8 pm.

If anyone is interested in attending and giving a brief (5-10 minute) presentation on their organization, facility, etc, please contact Wendy Mataya at wmataya@comgirlscouts.org. We would also be happy to distribute literature about your organization -- just mail flyers to Wendy at Girl Scout Office, PO Box 184, Mollusk, VA 22517.

Other Events:

River and Beach Cleanups

September 1st-October 31st, Virginia (statewide)

Would you like to help Virginia's waterways and environment by donating a few hours of your time this autumn? Clean Virginia Waterways (affiliated with Longwood University) is busy signing up SITE CAPTAINS to lead river, stream and beach cleanups ALL OVER VIRGINIA as part of the annual VIRGINIA WATERWAYS CLEANUP! This statewide event involves thousands of volunteers, and is part of a worldwide effort to clean our oceans - the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. To be a Site Captain, and organize a cleanup in your community, please visit <http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/iccva.htm>

Training Opportunities:

Project WET Workshop

August 12th, 9am-3:30pm, Virginia Beach Ag Bldg.

The workshop is limited to 20 participants. Lunch will be provided. To register for the workshop please e-mail: Kathleen N. Hickman, District Education/Administrative Coordinator at khickman@ybgov.com or call (757) 385-8589.

Save Your Energy! Workshop

August 6th, 10am-2pm, Science Museum of Virginia

Energy and the economy are two hot issues these days. Jennifer Barrie, Kilowatt Ours Youth Initiative Director, will be sharing the award-winning film Kilowatt Ours and the award-winning Youth Initiative resources which illustrate how individual actions add up to make a profound impact. Come view the film, participate in discussion and activities, and receive the Kilowatt Ours DVD and Companion Curriculum! Learn how to save energy and money, and how to engage your students to take action! We will also get a chance to tour the Science Museum of Virginia's solar home and alternative energy exhibit. Curriculum activities comply with Virginia Department of Education Standards of Learning for grades 1-12. Leaders. Call Remy Luerksen at 540-568-8768 to register.

Fee: \$10

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has announced the creation of the Office of Youth in Natural Resources (OYNR)

In a ceremony before several hundred schoolchildren on the National Mall, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar signed a Secretarial Order on June 8 establishing the Office of Youth in Natural Resources at the Department of the Interior. "The program will engage thousands of young men and women in all states and territories, from diverse backgrounds, including tribal and underserved populations and those who have little opportunity to experience the outdoors," Salazar said. Click on the title above to learn more.

Targeting "tweens," the U.S. Forest Service and Ad Council launch national campaign to re-connect children with nature

The campaign primarily aims to reach "tweens" (children ages 8-12) and their parents. The goal is to encourage children to get outside and experience nature first-hand, instilling a life-long love for nature by fostering a connection with urban and national forests.

[\[>\] visit the Web site](#)

[\[+\] read the press release](#)

Scenic Virginia's 2009 Viewshed Photo Competition

Deadline Spetember 1st, 2009

We're looking forward to receiving your digital images of the Commonwealth's beauty, and we thank you for your interest. FYI: If you're not sure what constitutes a "viewshed," [click here](#) to view our 2008 Viewshed Photo Competition Winners and see the photos that impressed our distinguished panel of judges! The five categories for [2009 entry](#) are: Coastal/Chesapeake Bay; Mountains; Open Space/Farmland; Rivers/Waterways; Urban Landscapes

New Student Toolkit Shows Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife and Habitats

EPA is releasing a [new toolkit to enhance middle school students' understanding](#) of climate change impacts on our nation's wildlife and the habitats on which they depend. Click on the blue words to learn more.

Small Town Sustainability

In [Small Town Sustainability](#), authors Heike Meyer and Paul Knox examine how small towns can meet the challenge of a fast-paced, globalized world, and they use case studies to introduce movements, programs, and strategies that promote local cultures, traditions, and sustainability. Click on the blue words to learn more.

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

New website to register your volunteer projects

President Obama has recently unveiled an initiative calling on all Americans to help in our nation's recovery by volunteering in their communities this summer. The President's call to summer service launches United We Serve, a sustained effort to expand the size and impact of volunteer efforts in addressing tough challenges facing the nation.

To make it easy for Americans to get involved, the President is urging Americans to visit [Serve.gov](#). Visitors to [Serve.gov](#) can type in their zip code to find local volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers by [registering their organization's projects](#), or get [ideas for creating their own projects](#) with friends, families, and neighbors. Plan a project, join a project and register your project at [www.serve.gov](#).

2010 Citizen Monitoring Grant Program

Deadline August 31st, 2009

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the [2010 Citizen Monitoring Grant Program](#). The grant will support volunteer water quality monitoring activities from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. Funds may be used to pay for monitoring equipment, laboratory analysis, publications, mileage for monitoring related activities, and related items. Grant awards cannot pay for office space, salary for staff or staff benefits; however, applicants can use funds to pay for contractual services for monitoring related activities. Click on the blue words to learn more.

(More on next page—keep scrolling)

Jobs

Writer

Friends of the National Zoo, Washington D.C.

Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ), a nonprofit member organization dedicated to supporting the education, research, animal care, and sustainability mission of the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park is seeking a Writer to develop & edit marketing materials, feature articles & website content. Req degree and two yrs of writing or communication exp, strong marketing, sales & communication skills. Non-profit experience preferred.

Send resume w/cover letter to: FONZ, HR/ PO Box 37012, MRC 5520, WDC, 20013, fax 202.633.6659 or email jlevi@fonz.org.

Conservation Technician

Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

The Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District has an immediate opening for two full time Conservation Technicians at the Harrisonburg office. The main focus of the technician positions is the administration of the State Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program. Both technician positions are temporary positions and are currently funded through June 30, 2010, with the potential for extension beyond this date.

Applicants must have a high school diploma, a Virginia driver's license, and proficient computer skills. A minimum of an associate's degree in a field related to agriculture, agronomy, natural resources, environmental studies and/or equivalent experience is preferred. Applicants should be knowledgeable in areas of conservation, agriculture, and map reading. Applicants must be willing to complete and sign the Background Investigation Questionnaire, SF-85, For Non-Sensitive Positions and be fingerprinted before being hired.

For more information, call (540) 433-2853 extension 119 or stop by the office to pick up more detailed job descriptions. Send a Virginia Employment Application Form (DPT Form 10-012) and a resume by July 31, 2009 to the Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District, 1934 Deyerle Avenue, Suite B, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801.

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact faye.andrashko@va.nacdnet.net